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SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that the premerger Pudukottah State Government had made the required survey and found the required raw-materials available for starting a cement factory? If so will the Hon. Minister pursue those steps and start a cement factory for the dry area of Pudukottah?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, I have no such information with me. But Government do propose to appoint some additional staff. It will take up the survey of raw material resources, so that we can plan a programme of industrial development, both small-scale and large-scale in the Pudukottah State.

Dysentery in Thilannur desam in Chirakkal taluk

* 2378 *Q.*—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI (on behalf of Sri K. P. Gopalan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that dysentery has affected the people and especially children in the Thilannur desom in Chelore amsom in Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar; and

(*b*) if so, what relief measures the Government have taken to prevent the spread of the disease?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : (*a*) & (*b*) No, Sir. One suspected case of dysentery, 8 mild attacks of diarrhoea and some attacks of measles occurred among children in the Thilanoor desom.

However, disinfection and chlorination of water sources, distribution of sulphaguanidine tablets and skim milk powder and anticipatory inoculation against cholera are the preventive measures taken in the village.

Hot wind in West Coast on 20th May 1955

* 2379 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a hot wind blew along the West Coast on 20th May 1955, which caused the withering of leaves of plants; and

(*b*) if so, whether the Government have investigated the matter?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes. Investigation had revealed that the withering of leaves of plants was due to the highly saline water of the sea which was blown by the unusually strong winds and sprayed on the leaves of trees facing the sea and near the sea shore.

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SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Sir, suggestions appeared not only in the local Malayalam press but in the English papers also whether this withering away might be due to radio activity. May I know whether the experts have examined the question with special reference to this aspect?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : That also suggested itself to me. But that particular aspect was not probably examined.

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : May I know whether the withering of leaves was due to the atom bomb tests?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Sir that seems to be a surmise. We do not know whether it is due to radio activity. It requires elaborate scientific investigation to find it out.

SRI S. PANCHAKSHARAM : Has there been any explosion of atom or hydrogen bomb just at that time to suspect radio activity?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Radio activity takes place even after many months and years after the explosion. We have received such reports from Japan. Therefore it is not necessary that an explosion should have taken place immediately before.

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : May I know the various steps taken by the Government to investigate the reasons for the withering of the leaves? Is it on account of radio activity or any other factor?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Experiments can be made only at the time when it happens. Now it is too late I should think.

SRI S. RAMALINGAM : அணுகுண்டு வெடியினால் ஏற்படக்கூடிய ரேடியோ ஆக்டிவிடிகளை தடுப்பதற்கு சர்க்கார் ஏதாவது நடவடிக்கை எடுத்திருக்கிறார்களா ?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Sir, the best remedy would be for every country to be peaceful and not to embark upon wars and atom explosions.

Appointment of Harijan trustees in temples in Tanjore district

* 2380 *Q.*—SRI M. MARIMUTHU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many Harijan trustees have been appointed to the temples in the 12 taluks of Tanjore district so far; and

(*b*) the number that are proposed to be appointed this year?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) Seven.

(*b*) It is not possible to say how many will be appointed this year.